(c) if so, the details thereof, and the results thereof; and

(d) the action taken or being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Work opportunities for farmers depend on farming activities. Farming is characterized by busy and lean seasons. During busy season, farmers are employed. During lean season, employment opportunity decreases.

(b) and (c) The employment pattern is reflected in the quinquennial survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO). As per the 61st round of NSS, in rural India, the proportion of "all" male workers engaged in the agricultural activities declined gradually from 81 percent in 1977-78 to 67 per cent in 2004-05. For "all" female workers, the decline was less *i.e.* from 88 percent in 1977-78 to 83 percent in 2004-05.

(d) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 guarantees 100 days of employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) was launched on February 2, 2006 in 200 districts and extended to 130 more districts in 2007-08. Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) is in place in the districts not covered by NRGES.

Drought and floods during the monsoon season

7. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts suffered from drought condition during the monsoon season this year in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of districts flooded during the monsoon season this year, State-wise; and

(c) the total financial assistance rendered to the drought affected and flooded districts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) This year, the Government of Karnataka have intimated that, due to deficit rainfall during South-West Monsoon 2008, 84 taluks in 21 districts in the State have been declared ad drought affected. No information regarding declaration of drought, due to deficit rainfall during South-West Monsoon 2008, has so far been received from any other State.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Home Affairs are concerned with matters relating to floods. State-wise details of number of districts affected by heavy rains/flash floods/floods/landslides, as reported to be intimated to them by the respective States, is indicated below:

Andhra Pradesh	Not reported
Arunachal Pradesh	2
Assam	21
Bihar	18
Chhattisgarh	2
Gujarat	15
Haryana	12
Himachal Pradesh	4
Jharkhand	3
Karkantaka	8
Kerala	4
Madhya Pradesh	4
Maghalaya	1
Orissa	19
Punjab	11
Uttar Pradesh	25
West Bengal	Not reported.

It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities, including drought and floods. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States with financial and logistic support, wherever necessary.

There are two schemes for providing assistance in the wake of natural calamities *viz.* Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). CRF has been constituted for each State and is contributed by the Government of India and State Government concerned in the ratio of 3:1. The State Government are required to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities out of the corpus of the CRF, in accordance with the extant items and norms. In case the natural calamity is of a severe nature and the funds available in the State's CRF account are not sufficient, additional assistance is considered from the NCCF, in accordance with an established procedure.

In response to the Memorandum submitted by the Government of Karnataka, seeking assistance of Rs. 2019.55 crores from the NCCF and 8.45 lakh MTs of foodgrains, for drought relief, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team has been constituted and is visiting the State from assessment of the situation and requirements of Central assistance etc.

The Ministry of Home Affairs have informed that "On account" payment from the NCCF of Rs. 300 crores to Assam, Rs. 1000 crores to Bihar and Rs. 98.87 crores to Orissa has been made in the wake of floods and that the Memoranda received from Andhra Pradesh, Himachal

Pradesh and Karnataka for assistance from the NCCF, in the wake of floods, are being processed as per the laid down procedure.

Experiments conducted by ICAR

†8. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 533 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd November, 2007 and state:

(a) the venues and dates of the experiments conducted by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research;

(b) whether these experiments were also conducted in western Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, location thereof and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) A Statement is enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) Yes, sir, except in Haryana where the agro-ecological conditions were similar to Punjab.

(c) Experiments are continuing at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana (Punjab), Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur (Rajasthan) and G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar (Uttarakhand – part of erstwhile western Uttar Pradesh).

The experiments have revealed that continuous use of nitrogen alone is bound to have adverse effect on crop yields. Even in NPK fertilized treatments, multinutrient deficiencies particularly zinc and sulphur have surfaced up at several locations. The soil test based balanced fertilization along with organic manures is essential to sustain sound soil health and higher crop productivity.

Statement

Details of venue and dates of the Experiments conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research

Sl.No.	Venue (State)	Date of start (year)
1	2	3
1.	CRIJAF Barrackpore (W.B.)	1971
2.	PAU Ludhiana (Punjab)	1971
3.	IARI New Delhi (Delhi)	1971
4.	TNAU Coimbatore (T.N.)	1971
5.	JNKVV Jabalpur (M.P)	1972
6.	GKVK Bangalore (Karnataka)	1972

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.